

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KARACH 01885 210628Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 OPR-02
AID-05 LAB-04 SIL-01 /062 W
-----210629Z 038315 /10

O 210535Z APR 77
FM AMCONSUL KARACHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1646
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LAHORE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KARACHI 1885

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PK, PINT
SUBJECT: SECURITY SITUATION IN SIND

1. THE STRIKE CALLED APRIL 20 BY THE PAKISTAN LABOR ALLIANCE AND ENDORSED BY THE PNA EFFECTIVELY CLOSED DOWN KARACHI. VIOLENCE MARKED THE DAY FROM EARLY MORNING, FIRST REFLECTING THE ACTIVITIES OF CROWDS OF ENTHUSIASTS ENFORCING THE STRIKE BY HALTING AND BLOCKADING WOULD-BE TRAVELERS ON THE STREETS. MANY BARRICADES WERE SET UP AND MANY PASSING VEHICLES STONED. RAIL TRAFFIC WAS SPORADIC AND ONE TRAIN WAS SET AFIRE AT THE DRIGH COLONY STATION. AFTER BEING OBSTRUCTED UNTIL MID-MORNING, THE DRIGH ROAD CORRIDOR WAS SWEEPED BY ARMY PATROLS AND THEN REMAINED OPEN.

2. ALTHOUGH THE PROCESSIONS OF FISHERMEN AND STUDENTS STAGED BY THE PPP REPORTEDLY WERE MODEST IN SIZE AND WENT OFF PEACEFULLY, INTER-PARTY FIGHTING BROKE OUT IN LYARI AND OTHER SECTIONS OF WEST KARACHI IN THE AFTERNOON AND EVENING. ONE OF OUR LOCAL EMPLOYEES REPORTS SEEING FIFTEEN BODIES DELIVERED TO ONE OF THE HOSPITALS RECEIVING CASUALTIES, AND HE BELIEVES AS MANY AS FIFTY PERSONS MAY HAVE BEEN KILLED IN THESE ENCOUNTERS. UP TO THAT
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POINT THE ARMY AND THE POLICE HAD BEEN AVOIDING FORCEFUL ACTION AGAINST STRIKERS AND DEMONSTRATORS, BUT THEN THEY HAD TO STEP IN TO RESTORE ORDER AND FINALLY AN INDEFINITE CITY-WIDE CURFEW UNDER ARMY DIRECTION WAS ANNOUNCED AS FROM 0600 APRIL 21. WITH THAT CURFEW NOW IN EFFECT, THE CITY IS SILENT AND AS OF MID-MORNING THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF SIGNIFICANT CURFEW INFRACTIONS. THE CONCERNED AUTHORITIES ARE SCHEDULED TO MEET AT

2000 HOURS TO CONSIDER HOW LONG THE CURFEW SHOULD BE CONTINUED
AND WHETHER IT MUST REMAIN CITY-WIDE IN SCOPE.

3. HYDERABAD AND SUKKUR WERE ALSO STRUCK APRIL 20. REPORTS
REACHING US FROM JOURNALISTIC AND PARTY SOURCES INDICATE
THAT THE PNA WILL TRY TO SPREAD THE STRIKE AND INTENSIFY IT
APRIL 22, IN AN EFFORT TO PARALYZE THE ENTIRE COUNTRY.
REPORTEDLY A PARTICULAR GOAL IS THE STOPPAGE OF RAIL SERVICE.

MOORE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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